

Message

From: Lamy, Kendra [Lamy.Kendra@epa.gov]
Sent: 10/26/2021 7:17:37 PM
To: Gillespie, Taylor [Gillespie.Taylor@epa.gov]; Risley, David [Risley.David@epa.gov]; Wadlington, Christina [Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov]; Cisar, Elizabeth [Cisar.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Fox, Radhika [Fox.Radhika@epa.gov]; Katims, Casey [Katims.Casey@epa.gov]; McLain, Jennifer L. [McLain.Jennifer@epa.gov]
CC: Fong, Tera [Fong.Tera@epa.gov]; Kelley, Jeff [kelley.jeff@epa.gov]; Cannon, Phillippa [Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov]; Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]; Conger, Nick [Conger.Nick@epa.gov]; Hamilton, Lindsay [Hamilton.Lindsay@epa.gov]; Lucey, John [Lucey.John.D@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: FYSA: EPA Response to AP Inquiry about Benton Harbor

+John

From: Gillespie, Taylor <Gillespie.Taylor@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 3:13 PM
To: Risley, David <Risley.David@epa.gov>; Wadlington, Christina <Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov>; Cisar, Elizabeth <Cisar.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Fox, Radhika <Fox.Radhika@epa.gov>; Katims, Casey <Katims.Casey@epa.gov>; McLain, Jennifer L. <McLain.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Cc: Fong, Tera <Fong.Tera@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Hamilton, Lindsay <Hamilton.Lindsay@epa.gov>; Lamy, Kendra <Lamy.Kendra@epa.gov>
Subject: FYSA: EPA Response to AP Inquiry about Benton Harbor

Good afternoon – We received a media inquiry from the AP regarding Benton Harbor and DHHS passed along another inquiry from the same reporter. We put together a response based entirely on the approved Benton Harbor messaging document. Please see the response and the media inquiry below. I want to over-emphasize that this response was pulled entirely from the approved Benton Harbor messaging document which we have been using for other inquiries and we want to stay consistent with our messaging unless there are real-life changes that we need to address. Nick and Lindsay have weighed in on the response as well. If there are any concerns please let us know right away. The reporter is on a 5PM deadline.

Request from Michael Phillis, Associated Press

I'm reaching out to ask for the EPA's comment on the situation in Benton Harbor. Environmental groups and local activists filed a petition in September arguing that not enough had been done, saying that the EPA had allowed corrosion control efforts to proceed too slowly despite persistently high test results from the city.

I'm reaching out to ask for the agency's response to this assertion. And, why were lead levels in Benton Harbor allowed to remain elevated for roughly 3 years before significant actions were taken?

What's the latest on the filters? When will residents know if they are safe and how much should that relieve bottled water distribution needs?

Proposed response

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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Thanks,

Taylor Gillespie (she/her)
Strategic Communications Coordinator
Environmental Protection Agency
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (mobile)